

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MONROV 04388 291731Z

66

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /095 W

----- 028820

R 291656Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2728

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 4388

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MILI, LI (BROWNE, PRINCE)

SUBJECT: PRINCE BROWNE RELEASED

REF: A. MONROVIA 1734; B. MOMROVIA A-38

1. FORMER ASSISTANT DEFENSE MINISTER PRINCE BROWNE AND FORMER LTC WILLIAM SAYDEE, CONVICTED IN 1973 FOR ALLEGEDLY CONSPIRING TO OVERTHROW GOL, WERE RELEASED FROM PRISON ON JULY 26 ON THE ORDERS OF PRESIDENT TOLBERT. THE RELEASE WAS APPARENTLY WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS. BOTH MEN ARE REPORTED TO HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR FAMILIES. SAYDEE IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID, IN PRIVATE, THAT HE EXPECTS TO BE PERMITTED TO RETURN TO THE ARMY. EMBASSY CONTACTS INDICATE RELEASE CAME AS SURPRISE TO PRISONERS AND USUALLY KNOWLEDGEABLE GOL PERSONALITIES.

2. COMMENT: IN HIS OWM INIMITABLE SYTLE, TOLBERT HAS RESOLVED A DIFFICULT PROBLEM. BY LETTING THE JUDICIAL PROCESS RUN ITS FULL COURSE AND PERMITTING THE ACCUSED TO REFLECT IN PRISON FOR MORE THAN A YEAR, HE HAS MADE THE POINT THAT HE WILL NOT TOLERATE DISLOYALTY AND COUP-PLOTTING. BY RELEASING THE MEN HE HAS (A) SHOWN THAT THE GOL UNDER HIS TUTELAGE, IS A MERCIFUL GOVERNMENT AND (B) REMOVED AN ISSUE OF POTENTIAL TRIBAL FRICTION (BOTH MEN ARE OF TRIBAL ORIGIN, SAYDEE BIENG FROM THE ZWEDRU AREA WHERE THIS YEAR'S INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBR-TION WAS HELD). IT HAD BEEN RUMORED EARLIER, THAT IF THEY WERE EXECUTED, TROUBLE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MONROV 04388 291731Z

COULD BE EXPECTED FROM CERTAIN TRIBAL ELEMENTS IN THE ARMED

FORCES.

4. FURTHER COMMENT: THE NEWSPAPER STORIES (NOR A HIGH GOL OFFICIAL WHO DISCUSSED WITH EMBOFF) DO NOT STATE THE PRESIDENT'S REASONS FOR GRANTING CLEMENCY. NORMALLY ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS IS ACCOMPANIED BY EXPLANATIONS OF REASONS THEREFOR. IT MAY WELL BE THAT TOLBERT BELIEVES HE HAD GOTTEN ALL OF THE POLITICAL MILEAGE OUT OF WHAT WAS GENERALLY REPUTED TO BE A RATHER WEAK CASE AND DECIDED TO END IT WITH ONE LAST DRAMATIC GESTURE. HIS IMAGE WILL NOT SUFFER FROM HAVING TAKEN THIS STEP.
MANFULL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PENAL SYSTEM, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MONROV04388
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740205-1011
From: MONROVIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740710/aaaaahyc.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. MONROVIA 1734; B. MOMROVIA A-38
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 AUG 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRINCE BROWNE RELEASED
TAGS: PINS, MILI, LI, (BROWNE, PRINCE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005